

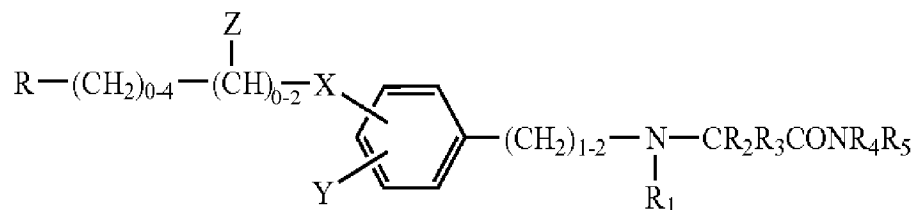
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) An α -aminoamide compound represented by the following formula (I):



wherein:

R is a furyl, thienyl, pyridyl ring or a phenyl ring, optionally substituted by one or two substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy or trifluoromethyl;

R_1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl;

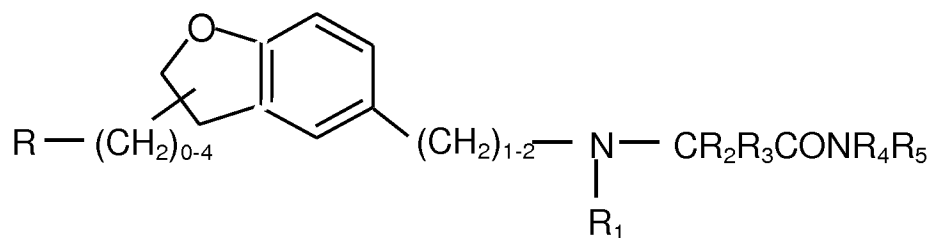
R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy or phenyl, phenyl in which the phenyl rings being optionally substituted by one or two substituents independently selected from C_1-C_6 alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxy or trifluoromethyl; or R_2 and

R₃, taken with the carbon atom which they are linked to, form a C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl ring;

R₄ and R₅ are independently hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl or C₃-C₇ cycloalkyl; or R₄ and R₅, taken together with the nitrogen atom they are linked to, form a 5-7 atom saturated heterocyclic ring;

X is ~~CH₂~~, ~~O~~, or ~~S~~; and

Y and Z taken together form a dihydrobenzofuran, having the following structure:



and/or

stereoisomers, mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

15. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 14, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

2-[(3-Benzyl-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl)-amino]-propanamide; 2-[(3-Benzyl-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl)-amino]-N-methyl-propanamide; 2-{3-[2-(2-Fluoro-benzyl)]-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl}-amino)-

propanamide; 2-{3-[2-(2-Fluoro-benzyl)]-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl}-amino)-N-methyl-propanamide; 2-{3-[2-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)]-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl}-amino)-propanamide; 2-{3-[2-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)]-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl}-amino)-N-methyl-propanamide; 2-[(3-Phenethyl-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl)-amino]-propanamide; 2-[(3-Phenethyl-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl)-amino]-N-methyl-propanamide; 2-{3-[2-(2-Fluoro-phenethyl)]-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl}-amino)-propanamide; 2-{3-[2-(2-Fluoro-phenethyl)]-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl}-amino)-N-methyl-propanamide; 2-{3-[2-(3-Fluoro-phenethyl)]-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl}-amino)-propanamide; 2-{3-[2-(3-Chloro-phenethyl)]-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl}-amino)-propanamide; and 2-{3-[2-(3-Fluoro-phenethyl)]-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl}-amino)-N-methyl-propanamide; and

stereoisomers, mixtures, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

16. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and, as an active agent, an effective amount of the α -aminoamide compound according to claim 14.